Social Services Block Grant



Purpose

Social Services Block Grant (SSBG) funded programs assist individuals or families to become less dependent on others for financial support or personal care; protect vulnerable children and/or adults; preserve or reunite families; support transition to independence; and avoid unnecessary or premature institutionalization.

Who Is Helped

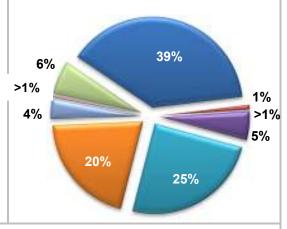
lowa's intended use plan* for the state's SSBG allocation advances the following SSBG goals on behalf of lowans:

- Achieving or maintaining economic selfsupport to prevent, reduce, or eliminate dependency.
- Achieving or maintaining self-sufficiency, including reduction or prevention of dependency.
- Preventing or remedying neglect, abuse, or exploitation of children and adults unable to protect their own interests, or preserving, rehabilitating or reuniting families.
- Preventing or reducing inappropriate institutional care by providing communitybased care, home-based care, or other forms of less intensive care.
- Securing referral or admission for institutional care when other forms of care are not appropriate or providing services to individuals in institutions.

*The 2017 SSBG Pre-Expenditure Report (intended use plan) is available on the DHS website under Reports.

SFY17 Projected Use of SSBG Funds, by Program

- Case Management (39%)
- Protective Services-Adult (1%)
- Foster Care Adults (> 1%)
- Foster Care Children (5%)
- Home Based Services (25%)
- Indep/Transitional Living Services (20%)Special Services Disabled (4%)
- = Opecial Oct vices Disabled
- ■Other Volunteers (> 1%)
- Administrative Costs (6%)



- ✓ Prior to the mandatory sequestration in March 2013, as outlined in the Budget Control Act of 2011, the federal SSBG allocation remained consistent at approximately \$16.6 million from 2008-2013.
- ✓ Sequestration and reallocations based on the most recent census reduced lowa's allocation from \$16.6 million to \$15.8 million for FFY 2014 and to \$15.3 million for FFY 2015 FFY 2017.
- This federal block grant continues to be threatened by Congressional actions:
 - Potential future reductions for non-exempt mandatory programs, including SSBG.
 - Total elimination of the block grant under various House of Representative Labor, Health & Human Services funding proposals.

Goals & Strategies

Goal: Promote Iowans' Behavioral Health Status Strategies:

Provide access to mental health services.

SFY 16 key performance

 16 people (unduplicated) were served by the State Payment Program (SPP). They all had a mental illness diagnosis. Goal: Improve safety, permanency, and well-being for lowa's children

Strategies:

- Provide access to child welfare services.
- Promote best practice in service delivery.
- Although states are no longer ranked nationally on timeliness of adoption, DHS consistently finalizes over 50 percent of adoptions within 24 months of a child's removal from home, which exceeds the federal expectations for timeliness of adoptions.
- 99.4 percent of abuse assessment reports meet timeliness requirements.
- 92.2 percent of children are safe from re-abuse.
- ✓ HHS' Administration for Children & Families (ACF) has implemented new performance measure strategies to improve States' efficiency in planning for the use of SSBG funding.
 - States will receive an overall performance score reflecting the percentage of all SSBG allocated dollars that were spent as the state projected in their Intended Use Plan. The target is 85 percent. Iowa's performance on this measure has exceeded 90 percent for the the last nine years, based on aggregate SSBG expenditures.
 - In addition, ACF expects the percentage of SSBG funding used for administrative costs to be 10 percent or less; this will be formalized in a performance measure in the future. Iowa's intended use plans for 2015-2017 have anticipated administrative cost use of less than six percent.

Funding Sources

In 2012, lowa planned for an annual federal fiscal year SSBG award of over \$16.6 million. In addition, approximately \$13.9 million of TANF funds were transferred into SSBG to make nearly \$30.6 million available to achieve lowa's annual intended use plan strategies.

Since 2013, Iowa's SSBG allocation has gradually decreased. In part, this was due to the Budget Control Act of 2011, and sequestrations; an additional decrease in the overall award is due to state reallocations based on the most recent U.S. Census.

lowa allocates the grant award annually according to the percentages depicted on the chart on the preceeding page.

The projected annual federal fiscal year SSBG award in SFY17 is \$15.3 million. The planned transfer of approximately \$12.96 million TANF funds make nearly \$28.3 million available.

*2012-15 are actual; 2016-17 are projected

- ✓ In SFY17, the vast majority of the SSBG funding will be used to fund case management and child welfare services.
- ✓ Up to 10 percent of TANF funds can be transferred to SSBG, however the percentage of TANF funds is decreasing due to other competing service needs.